

ENERGY.GOV

Office of
ENERGY EFFICIENCY &
RENEWABLE ENERGY

DOE Zero Energy Ready Home

November 27th, 2017

Sam's Notes

The Rising Popularity of Zero in Today's Housing Market

This past June, the Net Zero Energy Coalition released "[To Zero and Beyond: Zero Energy Residential Buildings Study](#)," highlighting the 2016 inventory for zero energy residential projects in the United States and Canada. This study reveals a substantial growth rate for zero energy homes, including a 33% increase from 2015 to 2016 in single-family and multi-family units (up from 6,177 units to 8,203 units). Additionally, the number of zero energy projects increased a staggering 82%, from 408 projects in 2015, to 741 projects in 2016. However, it's what's in the pipeline, specifically with regards to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)'s Zero Energy Ready Home (ZERH) program, that begs the question....have we reached a tipping point for zero?

DOE's ZERH program works relentlessly to ensure that all stakeholders (builders, developers, energy professionals, homebuyers, etc.) understand that this type of home represents the potential for the future of home building. With rigorous program requirements that ensure outstanding performance relative to energy, comfort, health, and durability, a ZERH is not only a better home when compared against more traditional construction, but it's built to the level building experts say they would choose for themselves. It appears that this message is starting to resonate across the country. Below are some highlights from some significant high-volume projects expected to break ground in 2017 and 2018 that have seriously considered or made commitments to ZERH certification.

- Property and infrastructure group, Lendlease's 500-acre community outside of Denver, Colorado with approximately 4,000 units
- Mandalay homes development in Prescott, Arizona with approximately 3,000 units
- Real estate investment company Chase Merritt's community in Fort Collins, Colorado with 3,000 units

- Four subdivisions for Meritage Homes in the Southwestern and Southeastern parts of the U.S.
 - Thrive Home Builders in Denver, Colorado with 300+ units
 - Garbett Homes in Salt Lake City, Utah with 300+ units
 - Capstone Homes development in Flagstaff, Arizona with 200 units
 - Parallel Housing, Inc.'s Adair Court; an affordable multi-family project in Atlanta, Georgia with 91 units
 - 10,000+ units under consideration for projects; including Caliber Wealth Management in Phoenix, Arizona, Carriage Grove in Belchertown, Massachusetts, and Whisper Valley in Austin, Texas
 - ZERH is also working with a group of off-site production companies including Beracah Homes in Delaware, Entekra, Inc. in California, Modulus Homes in New Mexico, and Blokable in Washington
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News and Notes

Invest in Quality, Keep Money in Your Pocket

November 28th, 2017 3:00-4:00PM EST

Quality is not easily defined nor easily to quantified. That is, until you hold back \$4,500/home in order to pay for anticipated future failures and realize that's exactly what you've done. It makes more sense to invest proactively in quality – in doing things right the first time – than it does in bleeding away already tight margins long after the home is delivered. In this webinar, we will explore a model that “flips the script”—identifying the opportunities that come from investing those dollars in better building and management practices to achieve reliable profitability and boost buyer satisfaction.

Last year, IBACOS asked builders and developers to put real numbers behind the Cost of Quality – a methodology that enables an organization to quantify how much they spend on quality-related costs and why. We received feedback from 21 companies during the initial study. In this webinar, we will present our findings on where the opportunities for savings lie in the areas of value engineering, construction oversight, cycle time, cost variance, customer engagement, warranty, employee satisfaction, trade/supplier loyalty, training value/valuation, documentation and execution. By investing in quality, you can keep real money in your pocket. Money that you can plow back into your business, hire and keep the best people, grow your operations, or have on-hand to weather whatever storms may come your way.

[Register Here](#)

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ZERH Leading Builder Webinar Series: Affordable

December 12th, 2017 1:00-2:00PM EST

There are a select group of leading builders across the country who are delivering a superior homeowner experience with Zero Energy Ready Homes. What business factors drove them to lead where others wait and watch? What technical solutions allowed them to cost-effectively achieve rigorous guidelines for outstanding home performance? What marketing messages, tools, and strategies have enabled them to effectively engage home buyers? What mistakes have they made that you need to avoid? What plans for the future do they have based on all that they have learned?

Don't miss the answers to these and other questions about the future of housing as the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) invites some of its leading builder partners and Housing Innovation Award winners from the Zero Energy Ready Homes program to share their stories with you.

Speakers: Sam Rashkin (U.S. Department of Energy), Rick Wertheim (United Way of Long Island), Michael Sollitto (Habitat for Humanity So. Sarasota)

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